LITHUANIA PASSES LANGUAGE LAW. The Lithuanian parliament passed the State Language Law on 31 January. The requirement that officials pass examinations in the Lithuanian language as a condition for holding government posts went into effect on 1 January 1995. Amendments proposed by Polish deputies to establish Polish as an official language in the Polish-populated southeast districts of Lithuania were defeated. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

LITHUANIA TO END PRIVATIZATION FOR INVESTMENT VOUCHERS. The Lithuanian parliament on 31 January adopted a resolution invalidating as of 1 July the law on initial privatization of state property passed in 1991. The law gave residents investment vouchers to purchase apartments and shares in state enterprises. As of early January, 70% of state enterprises and 78% of state capital offered for privatization had been sold. The value of the unsold property is approximately that of the unused investment vouchers, but it is expected that some vouchers will not be redeemed. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

FROM THE BALTIC OBSERVER - The Baltic States and Kaliningrad are becoming a center for narcotics transit. According to the UN International Narcotics Control Bureau in Riga, the shipments of drugs are coming from Afganistan, Kazakstan, Iran, Turkey and Ukraine on their way to Scandinavia, Poland and Germany.

FROM THE BALTIC OBSERVER - Andrejus Poluniovas living in Glouchester, Great Britian has won £ 2.3 million in the local lottery. Poluniovas lives in a modest apartment which is equipped with a black and white television set and no telephone. He said through interpreters that he has just recently discovered that he has relatives back home in Radviliškis.

Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas has given Lithuanian citizenship to 20 foreigners, including Knights of Lithuania New York and Mid-Atlantic Region President Jonas Laurynas Adamenas. Others granted citizenship were Russian prima ballerina Jekaterina Maksimova and balletmeister Vladimiras Vasiljevas.